

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Adult Services and Public Health
Date:	11 June 2021
Title:	Getting Going Again Fund Grant Scheme
Report From:	Director of Adults' Health and Care

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Executive Lead Member for Adult Services and Public Health to open a grant scheme for organisations to support Clinically Extremely Vulnerable People (to be known as the Getting Going Again Fund) and for the authority to award grants to be delegated to the Director of Adults' Health and Care in consultation with the Executive Member following receipt of bids. The proposed value of the grant scheme is £950,000 and will be fully funded from the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable grant award received by the County Council from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, (MHCLG).

Recommendations

2. That approval be given by the Executive Lead Member for Adult Services and Public Health to publish a grant scheme known as the Getting Going Again (GGA) Fund, with a total value of £950,000.
3. That the Executive Lead Member for Adult Services and Public Health delegates authority to the Director of Adults' Health and Care in consultation with the Executive Member following receipt of bids to award grants from the getting Going Again Fund.

Executive Summary

4. This report sets out the proposals for establishing and managing the Getting Going Again Fund in Hampshire, including proposals to delegate authority to award the grants to the Director of Adults' Health and Care. The report also sets out the key financial implications of the proposed GGA Fund, both for Hampshire County Council and also the 11 borough and district areas within Hampshire.

5. This report provides contextual information outlining the role that voluntary sector organisations played during covid-19 pandemic and how this can be built upon in the future; providing an overview of the number of people classed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable in Hampshire as well setting out the reasons for using a grant programme.

Contextual information

6. The response to the covid-19 pandemic saw an unprecedented co-ordinated response by public sector and voluntary sector organisations to ensure that the most vulnerable people in Hampshire, including those classified as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) and Clinically Vulnerable (CV), received the support that they needed to stay safe and healthy.
7. People who are defined as CEV are thought to have an increased risk of developing a serious illness from coronavirus. They include people with certain long-term health conditions, people undergoing specific cancer treatments and people with certain disabilities, such as people with Downs Syndrome. Full details of who is classed as CEV can be found on the UK government's website. By March 2021, there were over 83,000 people classed as being CEV and many more classed as CV living in Hampshire.
8. The Getting Going Again Fund seeks to build on the co-operation that took place during the pandemic, particularly between the County Council, the Borough and District Councils and the local Council for Voluntary Services Organisations, representing local voluntary groups and organisations, to support the development of sustainable solutions to help people recover from the impacts of the pandemic.

Getting Going Again Fund

9. Hampshire County Council recognises the impact that Covid-19 has had on local communities across the county, and particularly on those people who have been determined as being CEV or CV.
10. In light of this, it is proposing to establish a grant scheme, entitled the Getting Going Again Fund to provide one-off funding for innovative local projects or initiatives which are designed to support people, specifically those who have been classed as Clinically Vulnerable or Clinically Extremely Vulnerable, to recover from the past year and focus on the future. The County Council is particularly looking at initiatives that seek to support individuals or communities to develop sustainable support solutions. The purpose of this grant scheme is to support these people to start accessing their local communities again, and return to more normal ways of life, in a way that is safe.
11. Applications would be sought from district and borough councils, other local councils and voluntary sector organisations. Partnership bids would actively be encouraged. Both the scheme and the initiatives funded by it would be

time-limited, with all monies awarded from the scheme to be allocated by 31 March 2022.

12. In order to ensure an equitable allocation of funding across Hampshire, it is proposed that limits are set regarding the amount of funding that can be allocated to a specific area (in line with the borough and district boundaries) based on the number of people classed as CEV living within that area (see section 20 for a detailed breakdown).
13. Criteria for accessing the scheme would be developed, in line with the following principles:
 - Monies must be allocated before 31 March 2022
 - Each project can apply for between £5k to £100k
 - Applicants must demonstrate how their proposal is time limited or how it would result in sustainable solutions
 - Applicants must demonstrate that their proposals are focused on CEVs (and CVs) or their families
 - Applicants should be able demonstrate how they are addressing inequalities, including health inequalities, in their communities
 - Proposals must not include providing cash grants to individual residents
 - Proposals must demonstrate how an identified barrier to recovery for this group is being addressed
 - Proposals should not be about infection control but about enabling communities to Get Going Again

Delegation of authority

14. In order to ensure that grants are awarded in a timely way, it is proposed that the Executive Lead Member for Adult Services and Public Health delegates the authority to award grants from the Getting Going Again Fund to the Director of Adults' Health and Care in consultation with the Executive Member following receipt of bids.

Use of Grants

15. Grants are awarded to support services that are better provided by the voluntary sector e.g. the mobilisation of community resources to help vulnerable people maintain their independence. A grant is defined as a sum of money to support a particular activity. It does not usually cover the entire cost of the activity and it is legally considered to be a one-sided gift, rather than a payment in exchange for services.
16. A voluntary organisation may be considered for grant aid from the County Council only if its services, projects or activities are in compliance with the aims and objectives, priorities and policies of the County Council.
17. Voluntary and community organisations provide valuable locally based services that are often rooted in the communities which they serve. This

approach recognises that the County Council is often not the only, or the best, source of help for local people.

18. The governance around managing the Getting Going Again Fund is set out in sections 22-24 of this report.

Finance

19. It is proposed that £950,000 is allocated to the Getting Going Again Fund. This will be funded using a proportion of the wider £4 million funding from the MHCLG to support people in Hampshire who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable or Clinically Vulnerable.
20. In order to ensure that this funding is distributed equitably across Hampshire, in line with levels of identified need, it is proposed that guidance is set regarding the amount of funding that can be allocated to each specific borough or district. This is based on aligning funding levels to the number of people classed as CEV living within that area. The table below shows the indicative funding levels by district:

District	Number of people on CEV / CV list	Approximate Funding limit
Basingstoke and Deane	9,415	£107,350
East Hampshire	7,600	£86,450
Eastleigh	6,767	£76,950
Fareham	6,910	£78,850
Gosport	6,126	£69,350
Hart	5,581	£63,650
Havant	9,293	£105,450
New Forest	12,297	£139,650
Rushmoor	6,032	£68,400
Test Valley	6,807	£77,900
Winchester	6,625	£75,050
Total	83,453	

21. It is anticipated that the payment of the majority of the grants will be made in one instalment, however dependant on the nature of the bids received and any individual values we will reserve the right, where appropriate, to split the grant payment over multiple instalments.
22. All grant agreements have conditions that enable the County Council to require repayment of the award or any part of it if it remains unspent at the end of the grant period, or if there is a material breach of the grant agreement. These agreements will need to be signed prior to the release of any funds.

Performance

23. The provision of grants to voluntary and community sector organisations by statutory bodies always presents a degree of risk. Specific risks that statutory bodies are required to manage include voluntary and community organisations accepting funding without providing any activity; organisations not delivering the service as expected; and there being an under spend on the expected activity. This applies to all grants, however larger grants represent a potentially higher risk to the County Council.
24. A number of mechanisms have been employed successfully over a number of years to mitigate and alleviate these risks. These include nominating a liaison officer from the County Council whose responsibility is to monitor how the grant is spent, specifying within the grant agreement that the grant is 'restricted' funding for the provision of the specified activity only and phasing the payment of grants over the course of the award duration.
25. All organisations awarded a grant sign a declaration stating they accept that grant funding can only be awarded for the given period and no commitment exists from the County Council to continue funding after this time, or in subsequent years.

Consultation and Equalities

26. It is for the Executive Member as decision maker to have due regard to the need to: eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
27. The County Council does not hold data about the protected characteristics of those people who are classed as CEV. What it does know is what the factors that determine whether someone is CEV are. A full list of these can be found on the UK government's website. They include people with certain long-term health conditions, people undergoing specific cancer treatments and people with certain disabilities, such as people with Downs Syndrome.
28. Certain long term conditions included in the definition of CEV are more prevalent among older people so this scheme may also have a positive impact on older people. Certain health conditions, such as diabetes and sickle cell, that are included in the UK government's risk assessment for shielding are more prevalent in BME communities so this scheme may also have a positive impact on these communities.
29. Using its existing channels, and those of other organisations such as district and borough councils, CVS organisations etc, the County Council would publicise this grant scheme to those communities who are traditionally hard to reach and / or have been adversely affect by covid-19. These would include, but not be limited to, organisations representing, or working with, gypsy /

traveller/ Roma community, BME community organisations, organisations representing people with disabilities and organisations supporting carers.

30. Grant applications from these groups, as well as grant allocations to them, would be recorded and monitored as part of the ongoing management of the grant scheme.

Climate Change Impact

31. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.
32. The Getting Going Again Fund grant scheme has been designed to support people classed as CEV to start accessing their local communities again, and return to more normal ways of life, in a way that is safe. The grant scheme proposals have been assessed against the two decision-making tools which are designed to assess impacts on climate change and carbon emissions. As a grants scheme no impacts have been identified, however the impact of individual projects supported by the scheme would need to be assessed at an individual project level.

Conclusions

33. The establishment of the Getting Going Again Fund grant scheme would help to support people who have been shielding, because they have been classed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable, and their families to start accessing their local communities again and return to more normal ways of life.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	no
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	no
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

1.2 Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

The County Council does not hold data about the protected characteristics of those people who are classed as CEV. What it does know is what the factors that determine whether someone is CEV are. A full list of these can be found on the UK government's website. They include people with certain long-term health conditions, people undergoing specific cancer treatments and people with certain disabilities, such as people with Downs Syndrome.

Certain long term conditions included in the definition of CEV are more prevalent among older people so this scheme may also have a positive impact on older people. Certain health conditions, such as diabetes and sickle cell, that are included in the UK government's risk assessment for shielding are more prevalent in BME communities so this scheme may also have a positive impact on these communities.

Using its existing channels, and those of other organisations such as district and borough councils, CVS organisations etc, the County Council would publicise this

grant scheme to those communities who are traditionally hard to reach and / or have been adversely affect by covid-19. These would include, but not be limited to, organisations representing, or working with, gypsy / traveller/ Roma community, BME community organisations, organisations representing people with disabilities and organisations supporting carers.

Grant applications from these groups, as well as grant allocations to them, would be recorded and monitored as part of the ongoing management of the grant scheme.